

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Verse by Verse Study

by

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CHAPTER THIRTEEN

The Two Beasts

In chapter 13 we will study two beasts - one from the sea, the second out of the earth. The victory of Michael over the red dragon resulted in complete overthrow of Satan's power and influence in the heavenlies. Satan and his hosts were cast down to the earth. This event is very important and of grave significance. The earth is now to become the main battleground and the scene of Satanic operation. His kingdom has been just above us, but when he is cast out of the Heaven lies he will set up headquarters on earth. God-fearing Jews and Gentiles will be the special objects of Satan's fury and hatred.

He will also blind and darken the minds of the peoples of other countries outside of Israel. Although Satan is a spiritual being unseen by mortal eyes, he is actually a person embodied in flesh during the Tribulation period. His two principal ministers are described in Revelation 13. These demented instrumentalities are also spoken of as beasts - wild and fierce. Satan will give to these two beasts all of his power and authority, and will be the master-mind of these two apostates.

THE FIRST BEAST

Revelation 13:1-10:

1. **And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.**
2. **And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**
3. **And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.**
4. **And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?**
5. **And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.**
6. **And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.**

- 7. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.**
- 8. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**
- 9. If any man have an ear, let him hear.**
- 10. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

In chapter 12 John's eyes were focused on the sky. Things were happening in the atmosphere just above the earth. There was war (a literal battle) between Michael with his angels, and the dragon with his angels.

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a Beast rise up out of the sea." John's gaze moves from the heavenlies to the earth, and he stands upon the sands of the sea to behold the next great event in the program of God as God brings all wickedness to an end and prepares earth for the kingdom of Heaven.

In chapter 1:9 we see John on the Isle of Patmos.

In chapter 4:1 he is caught up into Heaven. In chapter 13 we see him standing on the sands of the sea. In chapter 17 we will see him standing in the wilderness. In chapter 21:10 he takes his place on a high mountain. John has a grandstand view of all God's doings in the Revelation God gave to him to give to you and me.

Here the sands of the sea represent vast multitudes of people. God told Abraham that He would multiply his seed as the sands of the sea. In Revelation 20:8 God's army is referred to in number as "**the sands of the sea.**" The sands of the sea represent multitudes; the sea itself represents unrest and turmoil among the masses. Almost without exception Bible scholars agree that this "Beast" is the revived Roman Empire (with its dictator), which rose to power in a similar way just before the birth of Jesus.

Daniel records a vision which will help us identify these Beasts in Revelation 13. Daniel is an outstanding personality; Jesus speaks of him in Matthew and declares that he was a prophet. He also had the gift of understanding and interpreting dreams. As a prophet God revealed to him the entire course of "**the times of the Gentiles.**" The prophecy of Daniel is mainly concerned with things that shall befall the people Israel in the latter days (Daniel 10:14).

Here in Revelation 13 we are dealing with the things that shall come to pass in the last half of the seventieth week of Daniel's seventy weeks.

In Daniel 7:3, "**four beasts came up out of the sea.**" These four beasts represent the four successive forms of Gentile power, which are Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome. Rome fell in A. D. 476. Since that time she has been an insignificant power, but she will rise again to become a world power under the leadership of Antichrist after the Rapture. Christians are not looking for the revival of Rome, nor for the Antichrist; we are looking for THE CHRIST.

After the Rapture this super-human Beast will work miracles that will make the Roman Empire great again in a very short time.

There are seven things I would like to point out about this first Beast:

1. He is said to have power, a throne, and authority.
2. He has authority over tribes, tongues and nations.
3. He will be a political world dictator.
4. He is a monster, he is wild, he rules in terror.
5. His reign will last for approximately seven years - with forty-two months of terror during the last half of the Tribulation.
6. Though his government will be under ten kings, he will be supreme.
7. He is the world's master blasphemer. Of all that have ever been before him, none could touch the hem of his garment in blasphemy: "**And upon his heads the name of blasphemy**" (Revelation 13:1).

Revelation 13:2 further describes the Beast. John saw a beast like unto a leopard, with feet like a bear and mouth like a lion.

In Daniel 7, Daniel saw the same three beasts in reverse order. The reason for this is apparent: Daniel stood at the beginning of the age of Gentile world dominion and therefore saw Babylon first, while John stood at the end of the Gentile age, looking back.

This revised Roman Empire has the characteristics of the three preceding empires. Therefore, this Beast of Revelation 13:1 will contain the different elements of the other three Gentile world powers in one great monster.

The dragon gave him his power, his seat, and his great authority. This enlightens us as to where the Beast-ruler gets such great power as he demonstrated. Actually, this Beast is the devil incarnate, so far as power is concerned.

Verse 3: "**And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.**"

In the fifth century after the birth of Christ, the head of the great Roman Empire was wounded unto death. The monster empire of Rome was killed. Parts of it have existed ever since, but the real head died. Now the Beast is that head raised to life again, consisting of ten federated kingdoms. A Roman Emperor rules again, and the whole world wonders at the great miracle of the revived Roman Empire.

This empire will not be revived before the Rapture.

If you read newspapers, news magazines, and listen to the radio, you know the cry today is "World Government . . . United States of the World . . . One World . . . Unity among the nations . . . The common market." Such propaganda as "All men are brothers" is the slogan.

All men ARE brothers from the standpoint of the flesh - but all men are not brothers so far as God is concerned. Jesus said to the Pharisees, "**Ye are of your father the devil!**" (John 8:44). "**Beloved, now are we the sons of God . . .**" (I John 3:1-3). We are not all brothers.

All believers are brothers, and all unbelievers are brothers; but believers and unbelievers are NOT brothers.

In verse 4, the world worships the dragon which gave exceeding power to the Beast that came up out of the sea, and the cry was, "**Who is like unto the Beast? Who is able to make war against him?**"

Who can stop him?

Who is able to conquer him?"

The world is looking for a superman, and this world dictator of the revived Roman Empire will sweep men off their feet.

Immediately they will begin to worship him. They will declare that no one can stand against him, that there is nothing he cannot do. What horrible blasphemy! This is the age of personality worshippers . . . in religion, in politics, in social life and in every other phase of life. This is the age of idols.

In verse 5 we discover that in the pride of his heart the Beast boasts and blasphemers. Who he is and what he has DONE constitute, no doubt, the sum of the "**great things**" spoken, and added to this are the significant words, "**and blasphemies.**" There was given him authority to pursue his career for forty-two months.

In verse 6, the Beast blasphemers God, blasphemers the temple, and them that dwell in Heaven. Words - bad and bold - are uttered. What is said we do not know, but we may be sure that the utmost of undying hatred to God which the malice of the dragon can suggest, is publicly and loudly expressed.

In verse 7 he makes war with the saints here on earth, overcomes and butchers them. (The saints killed here are those referred to in chapter 6 when the martyrs were told to wait for a little season until their fellowservants be killed in like manner). The Beast then becomes dictator of all kindreds, tongues, peoples and nations.

In verse 8, all worship the Beast save those whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life. The slain Lamb who had redeemed them by His Blood, takes special account of these sufferers. The Book of Life in which their names are recorded belongs to Him. The Beast conquers and kills, but eternal life is the portion of those martyrs.

Verse 9 sounds out a solemn warning: "**If any man have an ear, let him hear!**" Dear Reader! Whoever you are, wherever you are, if you have an ear - listen: Are you born again? Are you washed in the Blood? If you are not, may God help you to be saved this very moment.

If the Rapture should take place now, YOU would be left behind to go through the horrible reign of the Antichrist. Read Romans 10:9-13, and believe it!

Verse 10: "**He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**"

This is a solemn warning that "**with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again**" (Matthew 7:2).

Whosoever leads into captivity must himself go into it. Whosoever kills with the sword must himself be killed. What a word of warning - and how seasonable to saints then crushed under the iron rule of the Beast. That is what the Beast is doing . . . killing with the sword, making slaves of people, leading millions captive.

Those who refuse to worship and bow down to the Beast will be taken into captivity, and they that endure to the end (unto death) will be among the great multitude out of every nation, tongue, tribe and kingdom, mentioned in chapter 7. Those who receive the mark of the Beast will drop into hell. There will be those who will succumb to the terrible persecution and horrible suffering while in captivity; they will accept the mark and worship the Beast. But there will also be those who will endure to the bitter, bloody end.

Regardless of what a believer suffers during the age of Grace or during the time of the Great Tribulation, the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in us, and the glory we will share with Jesus in the land that is fairer than day.

THE SECOND BEAST

Revelation 13:11-18:

- 11. And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.**
- 12. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed.**
- 13. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,**
- 14. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.**
- 15. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.**
- 16. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:**
- 17. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

18. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred three score and six.

A second Beast makes his appearance - this time, out of the earth. This Beast will have two horns like a lamb - but he has the voice of a dragon. These two Beasts are world dictators in their separate fields - one political, one religious.

When the second Beast makes his appearance, things will be leveled off politically. It will be a time of false peace.

Let us compare these two Beasts:

- The first Beast is a secular power; the second is a religious power.
- The first Beast is a Gentile; the second is a Jew.
- The first Beast had ten horns; the second had two horns.
- The first Beast is a civil authority; the second is a religious authority.
- The second Beast is subordinate to the first Beast. He used the military power of the first Beast to enforce his demands and his dictatorship.
- The second Beast is lieutenant to the first. He appears after the first Beast - they do not both appear at the same moment.

The first Beast is the head of a vast military and political system, and as such he perishes at the coming of the Lord, at the close of the Tribulation, when Jesus comes in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God. To this Beast Satan gives what he offered Jesus in Luke 4:6-7, which Jesus refused with the rebuke, "**Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.**"

It will do you good to read Luke 4:6-7 and see the power Satan really has. Read the second Psalm. God the Father will give Jesus the kingdom and the earth.

No power on earth can withstand this tremendous political Beast . . . but, of course, God's power will finally put him down.

The second Beast rules in Palestine. He finally becomes the minister of the first Beast, and all kingly and priestly power is merged in the first one. But the second Beast is the one who deceives the world and labors untiringly to put Judaism and all religions of earth into the arms of Satan. There will be a world church, about which we are hearing much today. Both Beasts will share one thing in common: They will meet the same fate. Revelation 19:20: "**And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet . . . These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**"

They led the masses into captivity, and they must go into eternal captivity.

Sometimes it seems as though the believers are fighting a losing battle, but we are not. We are in the minority - but we are on the winning side. From the standpoint of numbers, we are outnumbered, but "**If God be for us, who can be against us?**" (Romans 8:31).

We are definitely on the winning side. We cannot lose with God. God does not always payoff on Saturday night, but when He DOES pay, He pays in full!

The devil, the Beast, the false prophet and all the wicked have a date at the judgment bar of God Almighty. At the Great white Throne, God will judge in righteousness, and all wickedness will be put down forever. The devil is the prince of the power of the air today, he is the god of this age; but the day is coming when he will be stripped of all of his power and placed in the lake of fire. He has been leading poor souls into captivity for six thousand long years, but soon God will put a stop to his activities.

The first three verses in chapter 13 refer to an empire. Verses 4 through 10 refer to a person . . . the dictator of the empire, the ten-kingdom confederation. The second Beast is a person - not literally a beast, but a beastly human. All through the books of prophecy in the Old Testament, empires and emperors are symbolized by beasts.

This mysterious and terrible Beast is called by various names. In the Old Testament he is called:

- **King of Babylon** - Isaiah 14:4.
- **Lucifer** - Isaiah 14:12.
- **The little horn** - Daniel 7:8; 8:9-12.
- **A king of fierce countenance** - Daniel 8:23.
- **The prince that shall come** - Daniel 9:26.
- **The willful king** - Daniel 11:36.

In the New Testament he is called:

- **The man of sin** - II Thessalonians 2:3-8.
- **The son of perdition** - II Thessalonians 2:3-8; John 17:12.
- **That Wicked** - II Thessalonians 2:3-8.
- **Antichrist** - I John 2:18.
- **The Beast** - Revelation 13:11.

Jesus prophesied concerning this Beast when He said, "**I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive**" (John 5:43). Jesus made this statement to the Jews who shouted, "**Crucify Jesus! Give us Barabbas!**" But when Antichrist comes they will receive him with open arms.

The Lamb of God in Revelation 5:6 has seven horns - seven being the number of divine perfection. The Lamb of God has fulness of power . . . He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent.

The false lamb - the Antichrist - has but two horns, denoting limited power. This second Beast is also called "**the false prophet**" (Revelation 16:13, 19:20, 20:10). He has two horns "**like a lamb**" . . . but his voice betrays him: he "**spake as a dragon.**"

Both spiritual and moral ruin is the aim of the dragon, and he is supported one hundred percent by the Beast. Rome and Jerusalem are the centers of influence from which Satan conducts his program in Europe, Palestine, and the whole world.

Verse 12 tells us that this second Beast has all the power of the first Beast, and he tells the people on earth that they should worship the first Beast whose deadly wound was healed, which seemed to be a great miracle. Never forget, the devil can perform miracles . . . limited, yes - but miracles.

Verse 13 tells us that the second Beast is so mighty and powerful that he makes fire come down from Heaven on the earth in the sight of men. The stage is set for the appearance of this miracle-working personality. Imagine what would happen in my meetings if I could reach up in the air and pull fire down from the air in the sight of men! There is not a building in the United States that would seat the people who would come to see me pull fire down out of Heaven. This Beast will have that power.

Keep in mind that these two Beasts work together - political and religious. The first will be the leader of the most powerful united kingdom that has ever been on this earth. He will be the most colossal ruler - the boldest, most blasphemous ruler who ever lived upon the face of this earth. The second Beast will have no royal authority outside of Palestine; therefore, he uses the power and prestige of the political Beast to bring about his diabolical design to get all the peoples of earth to bow down to Rome and worship the great Beast who was wounded unto death but now has miraculously come alive.

The second Beast will have no military power of his own. Military power will be turned over to the first Beast by the dragon - the devil. The second Beast is much worse than the first. He influences men religiously and leads them into the vilest blasphemy and idolatry. He demands men to worship him. He sits in the temple in Jerusalem and announces publicly that he is God Almighty.

It has been reported by reliable sources that the Jews now have every stone cut, ready to rebuild their temple the moment they conquer and take over the temple area where the Mosque of Omar stands now. The Jews are now in possession of the land within a short distance of the temple area (where Solomon's Temple stood) and the only reason they did not take it in the last war between the Jews and Arabs was that prophetically it was not time for them to possess that particular spot.

The second Beast is the one "**who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God**" (II Thessalonians 2:4),

Jesus came in His Father's name, to do His Father's will. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. The false messiah will come in his own name, to do his own will (John 5:43).

With the exception of those who have believed and been redeemed through the testimony of the 144,000 and the two witnesses of chapter 11, the masses will fall down and receive the Beast as their messiah, and joyfully line up to receive his mark in their forehead or in their right hand. They will be sent strong delusion; they will believe the lie. Read II Thessalonians 2:8-12.

I repeat: The world is ready, the stage is set, the masses are anxious for the appearance of this superman - both religiously and politically. The world is looking for a man who will promise shorter working hours, more money, less taxes, more machines, and jobs with ninety-eight percent of the labor removed. The world does not want an ordinary man in either politics or religion. People love to be fooled.

Did Hitler lead the Germans? Did Mussolini lead the Italians? Did Tojo lead the Japanese? Did Stalin lead the Russians in his day, and is Khrushchev now leading the Russians? Are the Americans falling in line with our present leaders? You know the answer. When the wicked rule, the people mourn. Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. The wages of sin is death. The nation, the family, or the individual who sows to the flesh will reap corruption.

The nations of the world are power-crazy, and the rulers of the world are making a mad rush to build a bomb that will destroy the most people in the least number of seconds at the least cost possible.

Religiously speaking, there are two groups in America that are going strong:

- (1) The man who is backed by the big denominational machines, by the National Council of the Churches of Christ, by the World Council and the big denominational universities. That man can build a big church.
- (2) Men who claim power to cast out demons, raise the dead, and cure all kinds of diseases. They, too draw tremendous crowds. I believe in miracles. I believe God can heal any and all diseases; but I do not believe in some of the modern methods used today. I do not believe in making merchandise of sick people.

The stage is set for the greatest miracle-worker who ever set foot on earth, apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.

We do not have a prophet on earth today nor a miracle-working preacher who would dare advertise that he will publicly pull fire down from Heaven. The Antichrist will not advertise it . . . he will DO IT; and then the masses will advertise him as God.

Elijah prayed, and God sent fire (I Kings 18:38, 39).

The sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the altar and the water were all licked up with fire when Elijah prayed. The followers of Baal attempted that miracle, but could not perform it. The Antichrist will.

Verse 14 tells us that the Beast uses his miracles to deceive them that dwell on earth. He then sets up an image to the first Beast that was wounded by the sword "and did live." It is remarkable that at the beginning of Gentile supremacy and power, men were compelled under the pain of death to bow down to images in worship.

Daniel 3 gives us the story of Nebuchadnezzar, a ruler in the day of the beginning of the Gentile nations. At the close of Gentile power, man will be compelled to again bow down and worship an image. The image which will be set up will be an actual statue of the Beast - and if you do not believe that today is a day of statues, just look at the statues on the dashboards of the automobiles you meet. Look in homes, in the churches, in places of business. Look at the ornaments people wear around their necks - and you will realize that we are living in an age of statues.

Many Protestants make an idol and a statue out of the building where they worship, and worship the building instead of God.

The death of the first Beast is mentioned three times in Revelation 13. Verse 14 tells us that the wound was made by the sword, which signifies a violent break-up of the Beast-kingdom, and not a gradual decline unto death. That is exactly what happened. The millions of savage barbarians in the fifth century after Christ swept down from the north and quickly brought the great political empire of Rome to an end. Fragments of that empire have never ceased to exist as separate kingdoms, but the imperial government under one head was wounded to death and ceased to be.

Prophetically, in Revelation 13 we have the restoration of that imperial head over a federal empire of ten kingdoms. There will again be an emperor - the Beast.

Verse 15: "**And (the Beast) had power to give life unto the image of the (first) beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.**"

If you are here when the image is set up, and when the second Beast is in power, you will worship the image or your head will be chopped off. So dear friend, if you are not born again, the only wise thing to do is to be saved right now - not Sunday, not when you feel like it, but right now!

Verses 16-17: "**And he causeth all (ALL), both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name.**"

Let me bring you up to date: In Revelation 4:1-3 the Rapture will take place. Millions of farmers will be taken in the Rapture. Percentage-wise there is more true Christianity among country people than among city people, and it is the farmers who produce what the city folks eat. The dairymen, the poultry men, the hog-raisers, the wheat farmers, and farmers in general raise the foodstuffs consumed by the millions in the cities.

When the Rapture takes place, more country people than city dwellers will be taken. Where there are hundreds in the country, there are millions in the cities; therefore, there will be a tremendous food shortage.

The surplus will soon diminish, and the strictest rationing system ever known on this earth will be set up. Every person who buys or sells will have to display the mark of the Beast in his forehead or in his right hand. There is no rejecting this command. Those who refuse to receive it cannot buy, they cannot sell, and of course, if they refuse to worship the Beast they will be killed.

The small and the great (the humble and the mighty), the rich and the poor (millionaires and paupers), free and bond - whether it is an American, a Russian, or a Chinaman - will be forced to receive a mark in their forehead or in their hand. This will be a fool-proof, international rationing system that none can escape. There will be only a certain amount of food for each person, and they will be allowed only their daily allotment - no more. Read Revelation 6:5-6.

There is also a note of religion in the rationing system and in the mark of the Beast, which will link those who receive it to the kingdom of the Beast. Those who receive the mark can never be saved nor forgiven. In that day those who eat will join the kingdom of the Antichrist, marked to be damned. If they do not receive the mark, they will hide in the forest, in the mountains and the dens; they will beg, borrow, steal, eat out of the rivers and the woods, until finally they are caught and killed. "**They that endure to the end, the same shall be saved.**"

After the Rapture, church and state will lock arms in full accord. The dragon will dictate the policies of politics and religion. He will make his last great drive to overthrow God and control the kingdoms of Heaven and earth - but thank God, he will fail. In those awful days, individual thought and individual rights will be crushed to the ground by the iron hand of the Beast. No matter how rich or how high-ranking a person may be, ALL must bow to the wishes of the false messiah - or pay with their life blood. If they refuse to receive the mark of the Beast and worship him, they cannot buy or sell, and they will be put to death. They cannot win, so far as earthly things are concerned.

Verse 18 is extremely important - but easily understood. "**Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the Beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is SIX HUNDRED THREE SCORE AND SIX.**"

There is much confusion in the land concerning the mark of the Beast. There are varied and sundry man-made ideas on the subject. But if we compare spiritual things with spiritual, search the Scriptures and rightly divide the Word of God, we can know what his mark will be.

I suppose one of the outstanding teachings in this day concerning the mark of the Beast is that those of us who worship on Sunday have that mark. One preacher declares in his pulpit, "Sunday observance - and the observance of Christmas, New Year's, Easter, etc. - is the mark of the Beast." The above is a quote from a book mailed to me by one of my listeners, who was greatly disturbed concerning Revelation. God is not the author of confusion, and in the words of Paul, "**Let God be true, but every man a liar**" (Romans 3:4).

The book which tells of the Beast and his mark is not a book of riddles, but of revelation . . . unveiling, making known the deep things of God. The Revelation was given to John by the Holy Spirit and it is not the work of man. It is the Word of God.

Can you not see that if the observance of Sunday, Christmas, etc., were the mark of the Beast, then the Holy Spirit would simply have said "He that hath wisdom, let him know that observing days is the mark of the Beast." But the Holy Spirit did not say that. He said, through John, "**Here is wisdom . . . Let him that hath understanding count the number of the Beast.**"

In other words, "If you have good common sense and reasoning power, figure it out." His number is the number of a man - six hundred three score and six. Six hundred, plus sixty, plus six - which adds up to three 6's. God's number is seven - He worked six days and rested on the seventh. Seven is the number of divine completion. Six is man's number. Man was created on the sixth day, and was created in the image of God, although he is short of God. Six is one short of seven.

Therefore, the "**number of a man**" (verse 18) is 666 - and since the devil is a trinity, we have not one six, but THREE sixes. The devil has counterfeited everything God has that is good and great. So we have a Satanic trinity - the Beast, the False Prophet, and the Dragon. Then, too, the Antichrist is imitating God. Jesus ministered three-and-a-half years, and they crucified Him.

The last half of the Tribulation will be three-and-a-half years, and it is in the middle of the seven years that the Antichrist announces in the temple that he is God Almighty.

He also imitates God in using marks for his own.

Every child of God has a seal, a mark (Ephesians 4:30). Read Revelation 7:3; Revelation 14:1; Revelation 22:4; Ezekiel 9:4. God's own are marked, and the devil marks his children during his earthly reign.

Yes, I believe there will be three sixes tattooed on foreheads and right hands . . . indeed I do. I believe John 3:16. I believe God literally loved, literally gave, Jesus literally came and literally died. Why should I not believe the number of the Beast will be 666?

There are many reasons why I believe we are living in the last days of the Dispensation of Grace. I firmly believe Jesus is at the door. I said earlier in this message that the stage is set and the masses are anxious for the appearance of a superman. This is the age of numbers, photographs, computers - and man is fast becoming totally and entirely dependent upon numbers and machines.

Ninety-nine percent of the people who read this message are marked . . . they have a card and a number.

Most of you have several cards and several numbers. So far as the United States Government is concerned, it does not matter too much what your name is, but your Social Security number is very important. No, the Social Security number is not the mark of the Beast, but it is educating the peoples of earth FOR the mark of the Beast. This is the age of marks and numbers. The stage is set, the end is near. Jesus is coming for the Church, and when the Church is taken out of this earth it will be as it was when Noah entered the ark and God shut the door.

God will pour out fury upon this earth, and earth will be turned into a literal hell before the end of the Tribulation period. I hardly know how to say what I want to say, dear reader. It may sound a little blunt; but it seems that the masses want hell on earth. They get drunk; they butcher each other on the highway; they slaughter each other in the homes at parties; they blaspheme God. The motto of the world today is “Wine, Women, and Song.”

This is a lust-crazy age, and if hell is what the masses desire, they will receive just that - but not until the saints of God are caught out to meet Jesus in the air and are above the terrible judgment and indignation to be poured out upon ungodly men. This superman who is coming is mentioned many times in the Old Testament:

“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time” (Daniel 7:25).

“He shall also stand up against the Prince of princes (Jesus)” (Daniel 8:25).

“(He) shall do according to His own will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods . . .” (Daniel 11:36).

When Daniel saw this superman (the Beast, the Son of perdition) he fainted: **“And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king’s business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it”** (Daniel 8:27).

Daniel spent a night in the den of man-eating lions - and came out the next morning unshaken, his nerves under perfect control. The lions did not bother him, and he faced kings unafraid; but when he saw the Antichrist, HE FAINTED! What do you suppose you will do when you see him, unbeliever? Think it over: and if you do not know you are born again, be sure to get on your knees now. Do not delay one moment. Bow your head, repent, call on God - and be saved NOW.

This will be of interest to those of you who may doubt that the mark of the Beast is 666 - the number of a man. Goliath, the opposer of God’s people and a type of Antichrist, was six cubits high. He had six pieces of armor. His spearhead weighed six hundred shekels (I Samuel 17:4-7).

Nebuchadnezzar’s image was a type of the image of the Beast. The image Nebuchadnezzar had built was sixty cubits high, six cubits wide, and six instruments of music summoned people to bow in the dust (Daniel 3:1-7).

~ end of chapter 13 ~

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